

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A method of managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system; the computer file system being divided into directories; the method comprising:

locating one or more content files; each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

associating one or more template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored; each template file being effective, when applied to a content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file; and

applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the or each template file is applied.

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the computer file system is divided into a hierarchical arrangement of directories and in which the one or more templates associated with each directory located in the direct hierarchical path from a directory in which a content file is stored up to and including the uppermost directory in the hierarchical arrangement are also associated with the directory in which the content file is stored.

3. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the association of a template with a directory is made on the basis of the template file being stored in that directory.

4. (previously amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 further comprising:  
  
associating metadata with each content file; and  
  
carrying out the respective pre-determined operation on each content file upon the application of an associated template file on the basis of the respective associated metadata.

5. (currently amended) Apparatus for managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system being divided into directories, the apparatus comprising:  
  
means for locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;  
  
means for associating one or more template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, each template file being effective, when applied to a content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file; and

means for applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the or each template file is applied.

6. (original) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 wherein the computer file system is divided into a hierarchical arrangement of directories, in which the means for associating one or more templates with each directory also associates with the directory in which the content file is stored, the one or more templates associated with each directory located in the direct hierarchical path from a directory in which a content file is stored up to and including the uppermost directory in the hierarchical arrangement.

7. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 in which the ~~the~~ means for associating one or more templates with each directory makes the association of a template with a directory on the basis of the template file being stored in that directory.

8. (currently amended) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 further comprising:

means for associating metadata with each content file; wherein

the respective pre-determined operation on each content file upon the application of an associated template file is carried out on the basis of the respective associated metadata.

9. (previously amended) A computer program storage device readable by a computer, said device embodying computer readable code executable by the computer to perform the method according to claim 1.

10. (previously amended) A signal embodying computer executable code for loading into a computer for the performance of the method according to claim 1.

11. (new) A method as claimed in claim 1 in which the association of a template with a directory is made on the basis of the template file being stored in at least one of that directory and a parent directory of that directory.

12. (new) Apparatus as claimed in claim 5 in which the means for associating one or more templates with each directory makes the association of a template with a directory on the basis of the template file being stored in at least one of that directory or a parent directory of that directory.

13. (new) A method of managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system storing a plurality of content files and a plurality of template files and the computer file system being divided into directories, the method comprising:

locating one or more of the plurality of content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

associating one or more of the plurality of template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, each template file being effective, when applied to a content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file; and

applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the plurality of template files is applied.

14. (new) Apparatus for managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system storing a plurality of content files and a plurality of template files and the computer file system being divided into directories, the apparatus comprising:

means for locating one or more of the plurality of content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

means for associating one or more of the plurality of template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, each template file being effective, when applied to a content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file; and

means for applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory, wherein the respective directory in which each content file is stored determines which of the plurality of template files is applied.

15. (new) A method of managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system storing both one or more content files and one or more template files and being divided into directories, the method comprising:

locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

associating one or more template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, each of the one or more template files being stored in one of the directories of the computer file system, each template file being effective, when applied to a content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file; and

applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory.

16. (new) Apparatus for managing information-bearing content files stored in a computer file system, the computer file system storing both one or more content files and one or more template files and being divided into directories, the apparatus comprising:

means for locating one or more content files, each content file being stored in a directory of the computer file system;

means for associating one or more template files with each directory in which at least one content file is stored, each of the one or more template files being stored in one of the directories of the computer file system, each template file being effective, when applied to a content file, to carry out a respective pre-determined operation on the content file; and

means for applying the or each template file associated with a given directory to each content file stored in that directory.